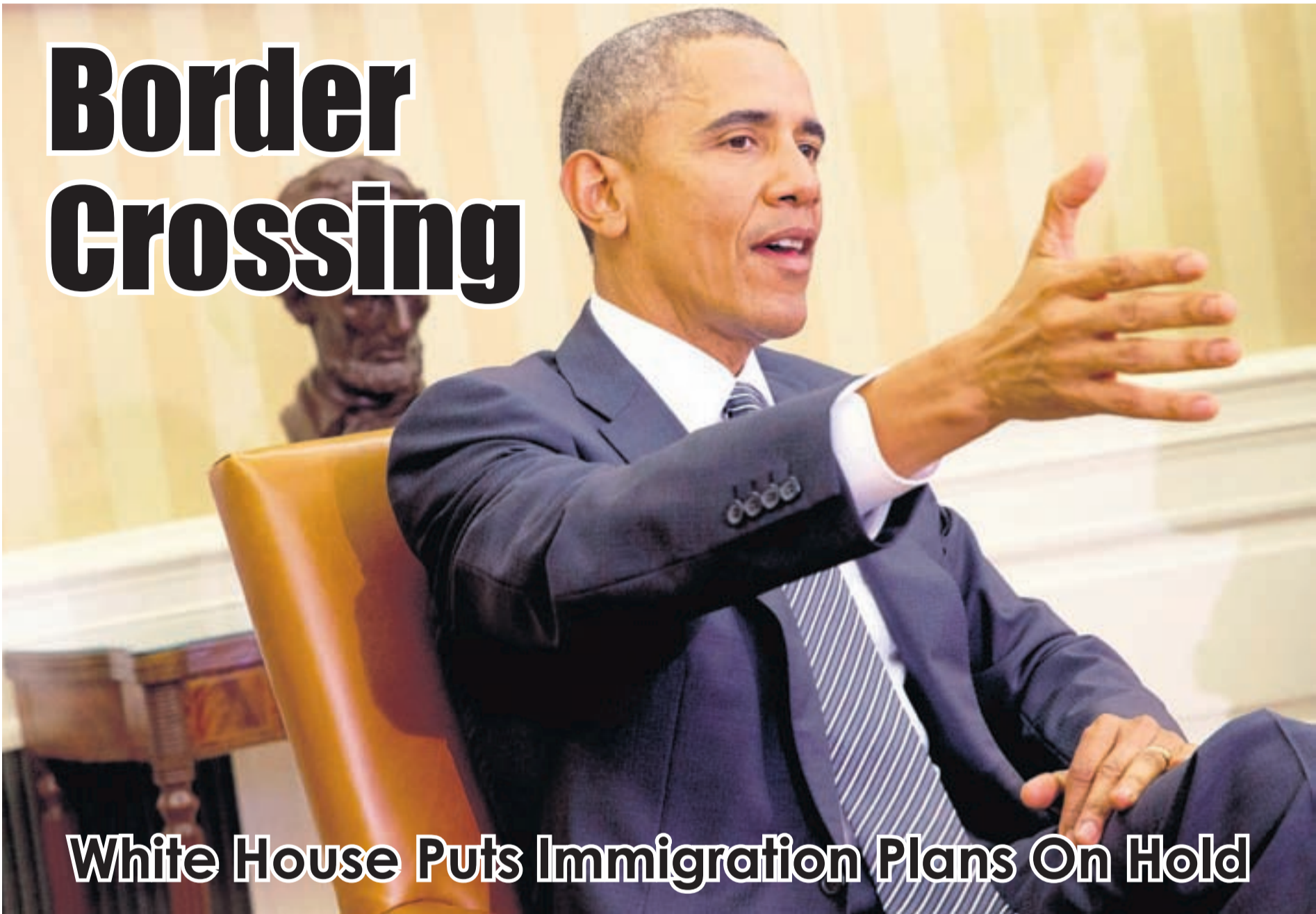


Border Crossing



White House Puts Immigration Plans On Hold

President Barack Obama speaks to the media during a meeting with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, in Washington. The President spoke about issues including immigration and ISIS.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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Snow spreads from Nashville to Nantucket after latest storm



Charlie Perkins gets a ride on a snow disc from his father, David, as they speed down a snow-covered street, Tuesday, Feb 17, 2015, in Roanoke, Va. A winter storm blasted parts of the Mid-Atlantic and the South on Tuesday, creating treacherous road conditions and leaving hundreds of thousands without power. (AP Photo/Don Petersen)

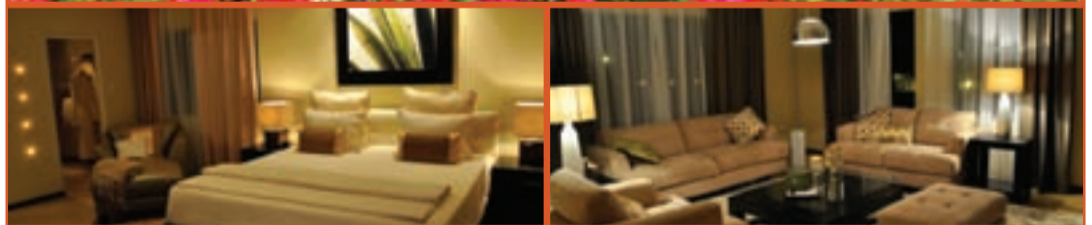
By JONATHAN DREW and MEREDITH SOMERS
 Associated Press
 DURHAM, N.C. (AP) - A powerful winter storm dumped snow from Nashville to Nantucket, and arctic-like temperatures gripped much of the U.S. and hundreds of thousands of people lost power in the South. While some shivered, others bundled up and tried to make the best of a frustrating situation. Two New Hampshire school districts remain closed a day after schools were evacuated over concerns of snow buildup on roofs. A teacher noticed the ceiling sagging in a classroom at Sanborn Middle School in Newton on Monday and cracks were seen around the doorways of some classrooms in Epping. On Tuesday, Moharimet Elementary School in Madbury was evacuated after cracks were seen on the walls, believed to be caused by the heavy snow

on the roof. Roads were icy and slushy, making driving difficult in many places and causing at least seven traffic deaths. There were three deaths in Tennessee, including a mother and son in Williamson County who stopped to help people in a sport utility vehicle that overturned in front of them when they were struck by a tractor-trailer. Two people were killed in Virginia as nearly a foot of snow fell in some places. In North Carolina, a woman died in a two-car crash in the north-eastern part of the state. A woman was also killed Monday evening while driving across the Thomas Johnson Bridge in Calvert County, Maryland. The tourism office of Ithaca, New York, is waving the white flag, advising visitors on its website to check out the Florida Keys instead. VisitIthaca.com's home page displays sunny photos from Florida and pro-

vides links to Florida Keys information. The top of the page reads: "That's it. We surrender. Winter, you win. Key West anyone?" Ithaca and the rest of up-state New York have been in the grips of a snowy and

brutally cold winter. Even though the snow in D.C. wasn't ideal for a fight, people showed up anyway, some in costumes and battle gear. One wore a ski helmet and goggles, another had on a giraffe costume, and one wore a

Captain America shirt and carried a shield. "It's not really snowball material. You can kind of get one, but it's a lot of squeezing," said Reco Thomas, of Alexandria, Virginia, as she tried to compact fluffy snow. □

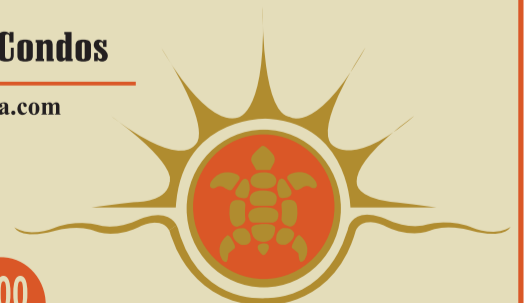


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White House puts immigration plans on hold after ruling

**ERICA WERNER
JIM KUHNHENN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration put its new deportation-relief program on hold Tuesday on the eve of its launch, complying reluctantly with a federal judge's order that roiled immigrant communities and seemed to harden an already-tense stalemate in Congress.

The administration promised an appeal. But for tens of thousands of immigrants in line to begin applying Wednesday for work permits and deportation stays under President Barack Obama's directives, those plans were canceled, at least temporarily.

A terse statement from Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said he strongly disagreed with the ruling from U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen of Texas finding the administration had exceeded

its authority, but "in the meantime, we recognize we must comply."

In Congress, Johnson's agency stood 10 days away from losing funding, but Hanen's ruling made a compromise on that dispute look more distant than ever. Republicans are blocking funding for the Homeland Security Department unless Democrats agree to cancel Obama's immigration orders, and they seized on the ruling as validation for their position.

"Congress must reassert its waning power. We must re-establish the constitutional principle that the people's representatives control the purse," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, a leading immigration hardliner.

Yet Senate Democrats, who have been blocking a House of Representatives-passed bill that would fund the department but also undo Obama's actions, said the ruling from Hanen



Nine-year-old Fatima Celedonia holds placard as she joins other immigration law reformers during a news conference in the Denver Public Library, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, in Denver. The White House promised an appeal Tuesday after a federal judge in Texas temporarily blocked President Barack Obama's executive action on immigration and gave a coalition of 26 states time to pursue a lawsuit aiming to permanently stop the orders.

did nothing to budge them. The agency's \$40 billion

budget runs out Feb. 27, and with Congress now on recess lawmakers will have only a few days to reach an agreement once they return to Washington next week. One possibility is a short-term extension of current funding levels, but House Speaker John Boehner said over the weekend that the House had done its job and he would "certainly" let a shutdown occur if the Senate didn't act. If the political impasse seemed severe, so were the implications for millions of immigrants in the country illegally who have cheered Obama's executive directives in the face of congressional inaction. "We feel powerless but not defeated, sure that it will all work out," 46-year-old Claudia Ramon, a native of Colombia, said at a rally in Houston, one of dozens nationwide where immigrants and their advocates vowed to continue

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

with preparations under Obama's programs. Obama's directives would make more than 4 million immigrants in the United States illegally eligible for three-year deportation stays and work permits. Mostly those are people who have been in the country for more than five years and have children who are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. Applications for the first phase were to begin Wednesday, when as many as 300,000 immigrants brought illegally to the country as children could begin applying for an expansion of Obama's 2012 program aimed at the younger immigrants known as Dreamers.

Yet there was also palpable anxiety, with their apparent White House gains under attack on Capitol Hill and in the courts. Advocates pledged to redouble their efforts to sign up as many people as possible. □

Biden:

Including immigrants key to stopping extremism in US

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States must ensure that immigrants are fully included in the fabric of American society to prevent violent ideologies from taking root at home, Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday as he opened a White House summit on countering extremism and radicalization.

Joining local elected officials, community leaders and religious figures, Biden portrayed the U.S. as far better positioned than Europe, thanks to what he called America's successful record at cultural integration. He said societies must offer immigrants an "affirmative alternative" to extremism, cautioning that military force alone could not address the threat.

Across the Atlantic, deadly terrorist attacks in France, Belgium and Denmark have left Europeans feeling vulnerable to the type of violent ideology promoted by the Islamic State group and once thought to be confined mostly to the Middle East and North Africa.

"National security flows from a sense of community," Biden said, adding that the most important lesson the U.S. can learn is that "inclusion counts."

The White House has

sought to use the three-day conference in Washington to stir a sense of urgency about the challenge of preventing home-grown terrorism and the radicalization and recruitment of Americans, particularly disaffected young people. Yet it comes as the Obama administration has struggled to match its stated strategy for fighting IS and other Islamic extremist groups with the realities on the ground in Libya, Yemen and other Mideast hotspots.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama was to address a gathering at the White House examining the response from U.S. cities, then speak at the State Department on Thursday at a gathering of representatives from roughly 60 countries. Britain, Jordan, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and France are expected to attend.

Global concerns that the Islamic State is drawing interest and support from communities far away from Iraq and Syria have only grown in recent days. Egypt launched airstrikes against IS positions in Libya, where the group posted video of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians being beheaded, and the U.N. Security Council is considering its own response.

Denmark is reeling from a weekend shooting spree by a 22-year-old gunman that authorities believe may have been radicalized in prison. □



Vice President Joe Biden speaks at the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House Complex in Washington.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

UN commission leader says ready to talk to North Korea

M. PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The leader of a U.N. commission of inquiry that found North Korea committed crimes against humanity said Tuesday that members of the panel are ready to go anywhere to talk to the North's government - but it refuses to engage.

Michael Kirby addressed a conference in Washington marking the anniversary of the publication of the commission's landmark report, which called for North Korea to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

North Korea on Monday demanded that the conference be scrapped, claiming the U.S. ignored its offer to attend and defend itself. Among those speaking were North Korean defectors, who alleged torture of prison camp inmates, starvation and forced abortions.

The State Department said the conference was a privately organized event, although a U.S. rights envoy attended. It was held by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a nongovernment think tank. □

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Clinton and the 2016 Democrats: Mostly Liberal, Together

DEREK WILLIS

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Among seven potential Democratic presidential contenders, Hillary Clinton is the overwhelming favorite - and the third-most liberal candidate. How the other candidates are arrayed on an ideological spectrum could make her run for the White House easier than the last time out.

In some ways, the cast of candidates for 2016 resembles the group from the 2008 race, with a field of stalwart liberal politicians. Clinton was slightly more liberal in 2008 than now, according to Crowdpac, which scores politicians on a left-right scale of -10 to 10. (Crowdpac bases this mainly on campaign contributions but also on votes and speeches.) Her problem was that Barack Obama, who was further to the left of her - at -7.8 to her -6.9 - also had the donors who were to the left of



Hillary Clinton is seen at an awards dinner in New York. Among seven potential Democratic presidential contenders, Clinton is the overwhelming favorite. How the other candidates are arrayed on an ideological spectrum could make her run easier than the last time out.

(Julie Glassberg/The New York Times)

her. He ran a better campaign, particularly in Iowa, and benefited from a surge in money from small-dollar

donors.

This time, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts (-8.2) and Bernie Sand-

ers (-8.3), Vermont's independent senator, are to her left. Warren has the higher fundraising profile

of the two, with a leadership PAC that raised more than \$2 million during the 2014 election cycle. But she and Clinton (and to a lesser extent Sanders) would be competing for a similar pool of donors. During her 2012 Senate race, Warren raised more than \$3.4 million from individuals who also gave to Clinton's presidential campaign, Federal Election Commission data shows.

The field of potential Democratic presidential candidates is ideologically cohesive. While there is room to the left of Clinton's Crowdpac score of -6.4, there is not a lot.

The lack of distance between the Democratic hopefuls suggests that creating a wedge between someone like Warren and Clinton would be harder among Democratic donors, and perhaps among the broader primary electorate. There are few issues where the gap between those two is significant. Gun control policy and immigration are possible points of contention, according to Crowdpac, which also generates scores for issues. On both issues, Warren is scored as much more liberal than Clinton.

The situation is different for Republicans, with considerable space available to the right of Jeb Bush (4.2) - and a lot of candidates to vie for it. There is more room to the right of Clinton. Most of the other potential candidates fit there, including Vice President Joe Biden, who has a -4.4 score, and Jim Webb, the former Virginia senator, who is at -5.3. □

Republicans in bind over defense spending

ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly empowered congressional Republicans are in a bind over efforts to boost military spending in a time of terror threats and Islamic State militants.

Defense hawks want to restore previous spending cuts to steer more money to the military, but Republicans are divided over how to do it without piling billions onto the deficit.

Many deficit hawks insist that any increases for the military should be financed by offsetting cuts to domes-

tic programs even as Republican pragmatists warn that could cause a budget logjam that would drag on for months. And that's before Republican leaders begin talks with President Barack Obama, who's demanding increases for domestic agencies.

At issue is the budget for the upcoming fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The problem stems from the hard-fought budget and debt bill of August 2011. A so-called supercommittee failed to reach a broad fiscal deal, resulting in spending cuts on the day-to-day

operating budgets of virtually every federal agency. Two years later, the pain hit with across-the-board spending cuts.

The result was a blow to the Pentagon, with the department's core spending on ships, planes, personnel and warfighting equipment reduced. Instead of a core budget of \$577 billion, defense spending would be limited to \$523 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

"We really cannot put a 2016 spending plan together at the \$523 billion level," said senior House Armed

Service Committee member Michael Conaway, a Republican representing Texas. "That's just unacceptable. We have to fix it somehow." While many Republican conservatives want to reduce the budget for domestic agencies to free up funds for the military, party pragmatists warn that this approach failed badly when House Republicans tried it two years ago. Others are eyeing cuts to other programs to provide relief similar to the bipartisan 2013 budget deal that rankled Republican conservatives. □



US Financial Front:

Homebuilder confidence in America slides in February



A flag advertising a newly built home for sale flaps in the breeze in Richmond, Va. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo released its monthly index of builder sentiment on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. homebuilders say sales prospects and buyer traf-

fic fell slightly this month. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Tuesday

slipped to 55 in February from 57 in January.

Despite the decline, builders remain relatively optimistic a month before the start of the spring buying season. Readings above 50 indicate that more builders view sales conditions as positive rather than poor. Lower mortgage rates, coupled with job gains over the past year, point to stronger sales.

Builders' outlook for current sales conditions and prospective buyer traffic slipped in February, while the expected sales conditions over the next six months held steady. The latest reading is consistent with the NAHB's

forecast for the U.S. housing market to continue to improve at a gradual pace this year. Buyer traffic may have been blunted in February because of winter storms, the NAHB said.

After sluggish real estate sales for much of 2014, Americans snapped up newly built homes at a faster pace in December, a promising sign as warmer months tend to draw out buyers and sales begin to peak heading into summer.

Sales of new homes surged 11.6 percent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 481,000.

Only 435,000 new homes were bought last year, a

modest 1.2 per cent improvement from 2013. That is well below a pace of roughly 700,000 new homes selling in the 1990s. While home sales are slated to rise this year, economists doubt that they will return their historic pace as builders still seem chastened by the 2007 housing crash that triggered the worst recession in 80 years. When builder sentiment was at similar levels in 2006, housing starts were 60 per cent higher, said Joshua Shapiro, chief economist at MFR, a forecasting firm. "There remains a big disconnect between what homebuilders are saying and what they are actually doing," Shapiro said. □

Student debt limiting home-buying power

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Younger Americans are struggling to keep up with steadily-rising student debt loads, a burden that is limiting their ability to buy homes.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York said Tuesday that the percentage of student loans 90 days or more overdue rose to 11.3 percent in the final three months of last year, up from 11.1 percent in the previous quarter. That's the highest in a year. Total student borrowing now stands at \$1.16 trillion, the most on record and 7.1 percent higher than 12 months earlier.

Previous research by the New York Fed has found

that younger Americans with student loans are less likely to take out mortgages than those without student debt. That's a reversal from the pre-recession pattern.

Before the 2008-09 downturn, 30 year-olds with student debt were more likely to have mortgages because of their higher levels of education and higher potential incomes, the New York Fed says. Now they are slightly less likely to have mortgages than 30-year olds without student debt.

"Student loan delinquencies and repayment problems appear to be reducing borrowers' ability to form their own households," said Donghoon Lee, a research officer at


the bank.

Americans are also struggling with auto loans, the report showed, but are doing a better job keeping up with all their other debts.

Just 7.3 percent of credit card balances are 90 days or more overdue, down from 7.5 percent in the previous quarter. Credit card delinquencies have fallen sharply since the Great Recession after reaching a peak of nearly 14 percent 4 ½ years ago. The current level is near the lowest since the New York Fed began tracking the data in 1999. □

Delinquency rates for mortgages and home equity lines of credit also fell in last year's fourth quarter from the previous three months. □

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American lobster: The new Chinese New Year delicacy

PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Now on the menu in Beijing for Chinese New Year: lots and lots of American lobster.

Exports of U.S. lobster to China have rocketed in the past few years, largely to satisfy the appetites of the communist country's growing middle class, to whom a steamed, whole crustacean — flown in live from the United States — is not just a festive delicacy and a good-luck symbol but also a mark of prosperity. And that's good news for Maine, far and away the nation's No. 1 lobster state, where the boom has put more money in the pockets of lobstermen and kept shippers and proces-

sors busy during the usually slack midwinter months.

For Stephanie Nadeau, owner of The Lobster Co., a wholesaler in Arundel, Maine, the demand has meant 14-hour nights spent stuffing wriggling lobsters into crates so they can reach China in time for the Lunar New Year, which falls on Thursday this year. She said she sends 100,000 pounds a week to China this time of year.

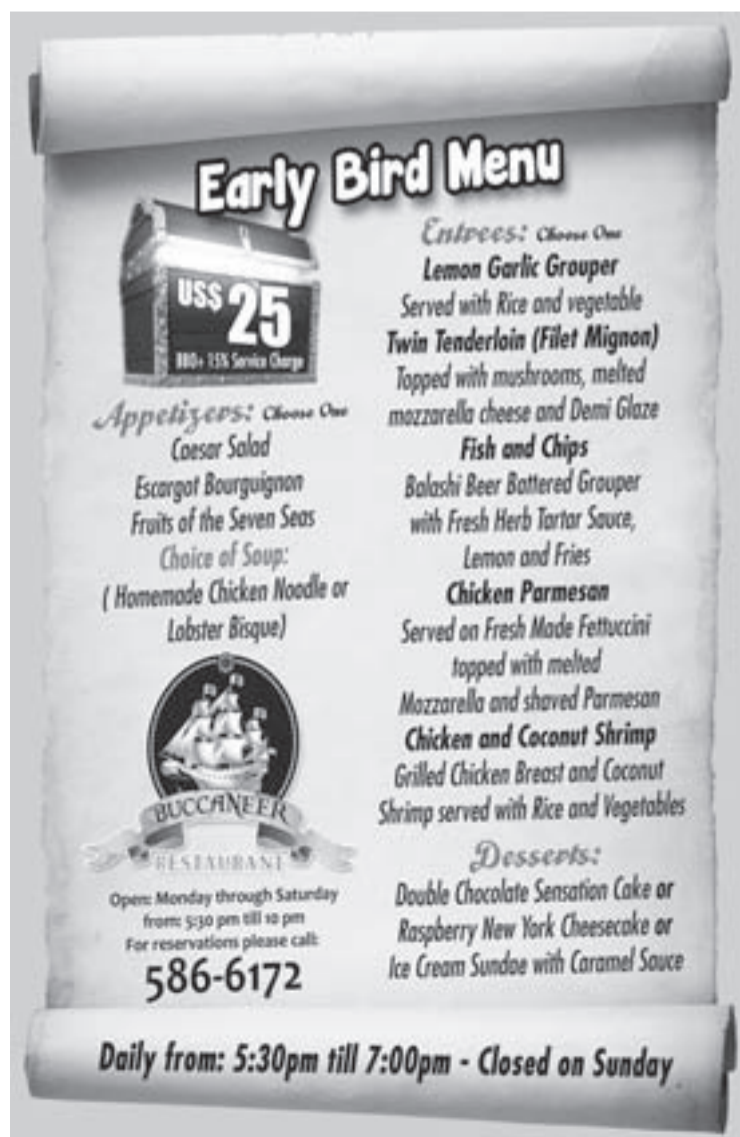
"There's lot of orders, lots of demand right now," Nadeau said. "It is a race to get them there for Chinese New Year."

On the other side of the world, every morning at 9, the Auspicious Garden restaurant in Beijing receives 800 lobsters that have just crossed the Pacific aboard



Lobsters are processed at the Sea Hag Seafood plant in St. George, Maine. More and more American and Canadian-caught lobsters have been turning up at fancy restaurants in China, marketed as "Boston lobster," say Maine-based processors. One processing firm owner says it's now the biggest live lobster important day of the year after Christmas in Europe.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)



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a cargo plane. In the evening, hundreds of diners fill the two-story restaurant in the gigantic Pangu Seven Stars Hotel for a nearly \$80 all-you-can-eat buffet with the New England specialty as the main attraction.

Xu Daqiang, a 35-year-old businessman who was at the restaurant for the first time on a romantic date with his girlfriend, said food-safety concerns in China make him choose expensive high-class restaurants where he can find imported seafood.

Cao Lijun, a 24-year-old Shanghai resident celebrating her friend's birthday in a party of four, alluded to lobster's reputed aphrodisiac properties when she said with a half-laugh: "How to say it? It makes my husband healthier. Really, this is what we say, because it is high in proteins." Lobsters and other foods seen as luxuries are popular at Lunar New Year and other festive occasions.

The bright red of a cooked lobster is considered lucky, as is its resemblance to a dragon.

China also imports lobsters from Canada, Australia, South Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere, but the market for the U.S. variety is exploding, with the demand strong year-round, not just at New Year's.

American exports of live or processed lobster to China climbed from \$2.1 million in 2009 to \$90.5 million in 2014, federal statistics show. China took about 12 percent of U.S. lobster exports in 2014, up from 0.6 percent in 2009.

American lobsters often appear on menus in China as "Boston lobster" and sell for \$50 to \$100 each in restaurants — expensive, but more affordable than the Australian rock lobster, which can cost hundreds of dollars and doesn't have the big meaty claws of the American variety.

For the Chinese, the pre-

ferred way of enjoying lobster is to cook it in plain water and then dip the pieces in soy sauce and wasabi. Another popular way is to braise it with green bean vermicelli noodles in garlic sauce, said Lv Hui, the cook in charge of the daily buffet at the Auspicious Garden.

Wang Kang, a marketing manager at Zhangzidao Group, a seafood distributor and processor in Shanghai, attributed lobster's popularity in China to rising incomes.

"That naturally means that people are buying more foreign luxury goods," Wang said. "Chinese people are also more concerned with healthy living, as well as foreign goods still being a new thing to them."

New England lobstermen have been recording epic catches in recent years and are grateful for the business from the world's second-largest economy. □



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Ukraine soldiers taken prisoner in fighting for railway hub

PETR JOSEK

JIM HEINTZ

Associated Press

LUHANSKE, Ukraine (AP) —

Under a near-constant barrage of artillery fire, Ukrainian forces and separatist rebels fought Tuesday for control of the strategic railway hub of Debaltseve, a battle impeding implementation of a peace plan.

Ukraine denied rebel claims to have taken control of the town but acknowledged the insurgents had seized parts of it in heavy street fighting. The battle came despite a weekend cease-fire that obliged both sides to start moving back their big guns on Tuesday.

Debaltseve, a key railroad junction between the separatist east's two main cities, Donetsk and Luhansk, has been the focus of fighting over the past two weeks and capturing it would be a prize for the Russia-backed rebels.

The defense ministry said fierce street battles continued there Tuesday and government soldiers had been ambushed and taken prisoner, but gave no details on how many were seized. Rebel spokesman Eduard Basurin said hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers had surrendered in Debaltseve.

Associated Press journalists were turned back by Ukrainian forces well outside of Debaltseve and were unable to assess the status of the fight.

The leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, one of two separatist entities, was wounded in the leg and hospitalized in the neighboring Luhansk region, Russia's RIA-Novosti news agency quoted a Luhansk rebel official as saying. Zakharchenko's life was not in danger, the re-

port said.

The Ukrainian presidential office called on the European Union and NATO to condemn the Russia-backed rebels for violating the cease-fire brokered by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France last week.

The war in eastern Ukraine has already killed more than 5,600 people and displaced more than a million, the United Nations said Monday. It has also left the country's industrial heartland in ruins.

On Tuesday, a deadline passed for both sides to begin pulling back heavy weapons from the front line.

Rebel commander Vladimir Kononov said on Russian television that most of Debaltseve was under separatist control and urged the Ukrainian troops to surrender. "Their only choice is to leave behind weaponry, lay down arms and surrender," he said.

The announcement by the rebels came after fierce fighting that appeared to be focused on Debaltseve. Both sides in the conflict claim the town is on their side of the cease-fire line, and the issue was not resolved under the cease-fire deal.

Rebel official Basurin announced in a televised briefing that the separatists "will take the initiative" and begin to pull back their big guns from some sections of the front line. He did not provide a timeline.

The Ukrainian government, however, insisted on a comprehensive cease-fire before pulling back its weaponry.

AP reporters saw near-constant artillery rounds fired Tuesday from Ukrainian government positions



Ukrainian government soldiers sit on top of their armored vehicle driving on a road stretching away from the town of Artemivsk, Ukraine, towards Debaltseve.

(AP Photo/Petr David Josek)

at rebel fighters around shelling was heard in the coming from Grad rocket Debaltseve. Sustained area all morning, some launchers. □

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Egypt's el-Sissi calls for UN-backed coalition on Libya

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's president said in a radio interview aired on Tuesday that creating a U.N.-backed coalition was the best course of action to rid Libya of Islamic extremists.

Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, speaking to France's Europe 1 Radio, said Egyptian airstrikes against Islamic State group positions in Libya on Monday were in self-defense. The airstrikes were in retaliation for the mass beheading on a beach of a group of Egyptian Coptic Chris-

tians. A video of the killings was released late Sunday by a faction calling itself the Tripoli Province of the Islamic State group.

"We will not allow them to cut off the heads of our children," he said. Asked whether he wanted to see a U.N.-backed coalition for Libya, he said: "I think there is no choice." He added that any intervention to restore security in Libya should be done with the consent of the country's people and government.

"We have abandoned the Libyan people as prisoners

of the militias ... The militias have to give up their arms and must work in a civil context. We have to disarm and prevent arms from falling into the hands of extremists," el-Sissi, a general-turned-politician, told the French station in his first public comments after his country's U.S.-made F-16s staged at least two rounds of airstrikes in Libya on Monday. "What happened is a crime, a monstrous terrorist crime that our children have their throats cut in Libya and not to react. It's a kind of self-defense accepted by the international community. We will not allow them to cut off the heads of our children," he said. The Egyptian attacks drew harsh criticism from Omar al-Hassi, the militia-supported prime minister in the capital, Tripoli. Libya's elected and internationally recognized parliament and government were forced to convene outside Tripoli



President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi makes a statement in Cairo, Egypt. Egypt is making an ambitious bid to place itself at the center of the fight against extremism across the Middle East. Beyond fighting militants in its own Sinai Peninsula, it is trying to organize an international coalition against the Islamic State in Libya and helping Saudi Arabia defend its borders.

(AP Photo/Egyptian Presidency)

when the capital was overrun by Islamic and tribal militias last year. An older parliament, supported by the militias, declared itself legitimate and formed a rival government with al-Hassi at the head.

"This treacherous aggression and the terrorism carried out by the Egyptian air

force is a violation of Libyan sovereignty and a scandalous violation of the U.N. charter and international law," said al-Hassi, who accused the Egyptians of attacking Libya "without any solid proof" that they were actually striking the militants responsible for killing the Egyptian Christians. □

Syria troops capture villages near Aleppo

BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government forces backed by Lebanese Hezbollah fighters captured several villages near Aleppo in heavy fighting Tuesday that left more than 100 dead on both sides, bringing them closer to their goal of besieging rebel-held neighborhoods in the country's largest city, activists said.

The troops were able to cut off the highway linking Aleppo with the Turkish border, according to Aleppo-based activist Amer Hassan and the Britain-based Syrian Ob-

servatory for Human Rights. Syria's state news agency said troops seized control of six villages and killed "a large number of terrorists." The government refers to all those fighting to oust President Bashar Assad as terrorists.

The Observatory said at least 65 opposition fighters and 50 soldiers and pro-government gunmen were killed in Tuesday's clashes. The Aleppo Media Center activist group and the Observatory both said rebels had regrouped and managed to retake at least one village they lost earlier

in the day. Aleppo, Syria's former commercial capital, has been divided between government and opposition forces since mid-2012. Government forces have been on the offensive, trying to encircle the rebel-held half of the city for months without significant progress — until early Tuesday, when the latest offensive began. If government forces succeed in fully besieging opposition-held areas, the move will pose the greatest threat to the rebels' position in the area since anti-Assad fighters stormed parts of the city in 2012. □

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Dangerous work, low pay for Venezuela bodyguards



Julio Delgado instructs fellow bodyguards in a training session, in Maracay, Venezuela. Soaring crime has given Venezuela the second-highest homicide rate in the world, outside of a warzone, according to the United Nations. It's also increased the demand for guards like Delgado, and helped them gain legitimacy.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Julio Delgado spends his days in his employer's armored SUVs and fortified mansion. Each night, he returns to his concrete home outside the capital, where he lives exposed to Venezuela's stew of violence. Delgado, who directs security for the family of a powerful automobile importer, is among the private bodyguards who are becoming more common — and increasingly targeted — as Venezuela is hit by an epidemic of crime. With the country's oil-based economy crumbling, the number of poor is growing, as is the gap between those barely scraping by and the wealthy who hire guards to protect themselves from thieves and kidnapers. Guards like Delgado make a precarious living. Both

on the job and off, bodyguards now are forced to take greater risks to guard their employers and to protect themselves from bandits who covet their weapons and vehicles. In 2014, more than 100 government-affiliated bodyguards were killed in Caracas, according to a tally kept by a major newspaper. The dead included at least six members of Venezuela's presidential guard, most slain in apparent robberies gone wrong. The bodyguard of Venezuela's first lady was among them. Many more bodyguards already have been killed in 2015, including the men guarding a governor, a minister and a mayor. "This is an ungrateful profession that leaves you with scars," he said. The 36-year-old Delgado came close to being among last year's fatali-

ties. One night while riding his motorcycle home, he got into a rolling gun battle with bandits eager to grab his gun and means of transportation. He escaped, but was badly injured in the fight. Guards with steady jobs, albeit modest salaries, are seen as relatively well-off by thieves. Delgado, for one, earns \$250 a month, twice what an average bodyguard might earn and six times more than a Venezuelan working for minimum wage. The salary enabled him to

leave the hillside shantytown where he grew up and move with his wife into a concrete home in the village below. His neighborhood of steep, broken streets is dotted with makeshift shacks. The threat of robbery is pervasive; iron bars guard windows even on the third stories. He tells no one he's a security guard. Neighbors, he said, believe he's a hairdresser with a salon in Caracas. Training is done in private, sparring with an old pair of car tires where no one can see.

"There's a price for coming down from the slums," says Delgado's wife, Yurmi. "People are envious." Soaring crime has given Venezuela the second-highest homicide rate in the world, outside of a warzone, according to the United Nations. It's also increased the demand for guards like Delgado, and helped them gain legitimacy. Venezuela's wealthy increasingly have turned to private guards as public police forces have proven to be inept or corrupt. □

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Float accident at Haiti Carnival parade kills at least 16

EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— At least 16 people were killed early Tuesday in the Haitian capital after a man on top of a musical group's Carnival float was shocked by high-voltage wires above the street, setting off a panic in which dozens of people were trampled, officials said.

The accident occurred as thousands of people filled the streets of downtown Port-au-Prince for the raucous annual celebration. Video from the scene showed sparks coursing from the wire after a singer from the Haitian hip-hop group Barikad Crew was jolted by the overhead power line as the float passed beneath it. The cable appeared to have shocked several others as well.

Prime Minister Evans Paul said 16 people were confirmed dead and 78 were injured. His statement conflicted with earlier reports on the number of casualties. Nadia Lochard, a coordi-



A man takes pictures of the float on which a singer was electrocuted by an overhead power line as the float passed beneath it during a carnival parade in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, early Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015. At least 20 people were killed early Tuesday after he was electrocuted, setting off a panic in which dozens of people were trampled, witnesses and officials said. Radio station Zenith-FM quoted a doctor as saying that the singer, known by the stage name Fantom, was expected to survive. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

nator for the Department of Civil Protection, had said at least 20 people were killed. Paul declared three official days of mourning for the impoverished Caribbean country. Haitian officials canceled Tuesday's third and final day of Carnival

events and announced a state funeral and vigil on Saturday for the victims. The singer who was hit by the power cable, a man known by the stage name Fantom, was expected to survive, according to a doctor who spoke to radio sta-

tion Zenith-FM. The information could not be verified immediately.

Dr. Joel Desire, a doctor at General Hospital, said most of those killed appeared to have been trampled to death as the crowd surged away from the Carnival

float, one of 16 in the downtown parade.

Witnesses said panic ensued when people jumped off the float to avoid being electrocuted.

"I saw the wire falling and sparks and I started running for my life," said Natacha Saint Fleur, a 22-year-old who was near the float at the time.

A dazed Carhenry Belan, who injured his foot in the stampede, said the crowd seemed to surge all at once. "I saw the spark and I saw people running so I did too," the 25-year-old said as he was being treated at the General Hospital.

Video from the scene shows Haitian ambulance crews racing through the crowds in the pre-dawn darkness with victims on stretchers. Hundreds of people crowded around the hospital, carrying victims or looking for information about family and friends amid a chaotic scene. Some men and women wailed as people were declared dead and the hospital's morgue soon overflowed.

Communications Minister Rothchild Francis said the government was working to assist victims. First lady Sophia Martelly visited some of the injured but left the hospital.

It is a common practice in Haiti and elsewhere to have someone positioned atop a parade float to move low-hanging power lines. In Brazil, officials said three people were killed early Tuesday when they were electrocuted while standing atop a Carnival float that hit a power line on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. □

Observers press for results from St Kitts elections

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts (AP)

— Election observers on Tuesday called for calm in St. Kitts and Nevis as the tiny Caribbean country's roughly 55,000 residents awaited the results of a national vote determining the islands' political future for the next five years.

In a Tuesday statement, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States called for ballot counting "to be expedited so that the election results can be de-

clared without delay." An observer team from the Organization of American States made a similar call. Elections Supervisor Wingrove George has yet to announce results from a parliamentary vote held Monday. He told state-owned radio and TV station ZIZ that some candidates are contesting preliminary results, slowing an official announcement from his office.

"We don't want to hur-

riedly make decisions and determinations that we can't recall," George was quoted as saying.

But even political leaders from other regional nations are saying that George's office needs to hurry up and deliver the results, which were expected early Tuesday. There are roughly 36,000 registered voters in St. Kitts and Nevis, one of the smallest countries in the world.

"The region's reputation

for democracy and for free and fair elections will be under threat as long as this issue in St. Kitts and Nevis remains unresolved," Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said in a statement. Prime Minister Denzil Douglas was seeking his fifth consecutive term in office. He faced a tough fight from a coalition of three opposition parties led by Timothy Harris, a former minister in Douglas' Cabinet. □



La Cabana Celebrates Valentine's: Resort Associates Learn the Five Languages of Love!



EAGLE BEACH – In celebration of Valentine's Day, La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino's Green and Health Committee invited public speaker Mirthania Rasmijn to give a presentation on the Five Languages of Love, helping associates discover their own love language, as well as that of their loved ones, friends and colleagues. Mirthania gave a short explanation of each of the Five Languages of Love, which are made up of Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time and Physi-

cal Touch. "When you learn to recognize The

Five Love Languages, you will improve your commu-

nication altogether, not only in words but in acts," Mirthania explained.

Mirthania also touched on the different types of love, as described by the Greeks: love of family, love of friends, the love of couples, and the unconditional love for humanity. The presentation ended with a moving short film about a father who had to choose between saving a train full of people and his only son, who had fallen between the train tracks.

After thanking Mirthania for sharing her passion and time with La Cabana's

associates, the Green & Health Committee continued to spread the love, setting up a Valentine's Day corner in the Chit Chat Café, where committee members handed out heart-shaped Dulce de Leche caramels to their lovely colleagues.

Our photos show the love-filled celebration of Valentine's Day at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino. For more information on The Five Languages of Love, take the Gary Chapman's test on the www.5lovelanguages.com. □



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PALM BEACH - "Aruba Ray's Comedy Show," easily the best show in Aruba, started again last week at the Marriott Resort. The three comedians were absolutely hilarious.

The comedians change every week, and all are top level. They each have major television credits. Advance tickets are available at www.ArubaComedy.com.

This wonderful show is a great way to spend a night out. The comedians are truly some of the best from New York, and perform in a relaxed, intimate setting at the Marriott.

In addition, there is also an option to purchase a premium four-hour open bar, and each person gets \$10 FREE Slot Play cash with each ticket (must bring Valid ID for FREE Slot Play).

Returning to Aruba for this coming week is Brian Scott McFadden. This very talented funnyman has appeared on the Letterman Show, Late Late Show on CBS, and was in the hit Ben Stiller movie The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. He is a fantastic performer.

Also performing - Mike Vecchione. You have seen Mike on the Tonight Show, his special on Comedy Central, and the hit NBC show Last Comic Standing! Mike is very unique and hilarious.

Ray Ellin hosts the shows. Considered by his peers to be the best host in NYC, Ray is known as "Aruba Ray"

because of his passion for Aruba. Ray has been coming to Aruba every month for the past three years, and produces and hosts these incredible comedy shows on the island. He is a popular comedian in New York, and has brought his talent and colleagues to Aruba. Audiences at these shows love Ray, he is a one-of-a-kind talent.

The shows are at 830pm, every night, in the Amsterdam Ballroom at the Marriott Resort, down the hall from the casino. Doors open at 8pm.

It is suggested to arrive early - seating is first come first serve.

The showroom is intimate - it is suggested you purchase tickets in advance at www.ArubaComedy.com.

You can also purchase tickets (subject to avail-



ability) at the Amsterdam Ballroom showroom door at 730pm.

The tickets are \$34. And each Comedy Ticket gives every audience member \$10 in FREE Slot Play in the Stellaris Casino at the Marriott (ID required!). And each Comedy Ticket will also provide a 20% discount to the Aruba La Vista buffet.

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mium open bar continues after the show in the casino until midnight. An incredible deal, and a full night out.

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The showroom is very comfortable, but seating is first come first serve! So you should try to arrive early enough. Drinks are available for purchase, but there is NO drink minimum! Anyone can attend, however the show is suggested for a mature audience. □

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IMF Reports That Aruba's Economy Has Promising Potential

ORANJESTAD - The Prime Minister of Aruba Mike Eman received the most recent report from the IMF (International Monetary Funds) on Friday, February 13, 2015. The results of the report are very positive for Aruba and detail the upward growth of the economy for the island.

A delegation of IMF staff have been on the island having discussions with Aruba's economic stakeholders and performing a rigorous investigation into the most recent financial situations on economic developments and policies. Based on information available at the time of these discussions, the IMF reported that Aruba's economy is recovering from a double-dip recession caused by the global financial crisis and the shutdown of the island's oil refinery. The IMF advises that the authorities have undertaken major reforms, aiming for at surplus by 2018 and the adjustment plan contains the necessary measures needed for Aruba to meet their targets. The findings show a strong recovery in 2013

with growth above 4.5 percent largely reflected in developments in the tourism sector. Growth is projected to rise to 2.25 percent in 2015 as the tourism sector is expected to continue to grow, domestic demand is slated to recover together with key public-private partnership (PPP) projects e.g. Green Corridor and Ring Road 3. In 2014, the fiscal deficit narrowed to 5.25% as the authorities undertook major structural reforms to address the fiscal challenges. The most effective reforms applauded by the IMF include changes in AOV, APFA and AZV. The AMF foresees a meaningful fiscal consolidation to take hold this year. The proposed budget plan aims to reduce the 2015 deficit to 3.75 percent of the GDP. The conclusion of the report shows positive results and states "The authorities' growth pillar anchored around renewable energy offers promising potential." Given Aruba's abundance of natural resources, it is plausible for a long-term path for economic diversification. □



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ORANJESTAD - Take a burger of one hundred percent prime Angus beef, add to that the freshest possible extras and tastiest sauces and voila: here is your gourmet burger. Sidebar, a newly opened, great restaurant in the Renaissance Marketplace in downtown Oranjestad, knows how to tease your taste buds with the best burgers imaginable.

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TripAdvisor - January 5th, 2015

Sidebar's signature burgers have been named The Sidebar, The Afterburner, The Goliath, The Texan, The Chaser, The Primal and The Italian Job and we are sure that everyone will be able to find a burger that calls out to them. The burgers come with brie cheese, prosciutto, Cheddar cheese, zucchini, sliced steak, Bourbon bbq sauce, dripping gravy and much more, depending on your order. The best thing is that these gourmet beauties cost less than \$ 15.--, so lunch or an evening out won't break the bank.

Feel love for Sidebar's burgers; they are bursting with taste— try them all and find your personal favorite. Come on down to Sidebar and rock your Wildest West with a fabulously tasty burger that packs a punch with its layers of flavor. And if you are not in a burger mood, then Sidebar has a wonderfully varied menu of all kinds of other options, ranging from vegetarian mushrooms and spinach to a zucchini cutlet to lovely salads, homemade soups, pastas and fish dishes.

Wash your lunch or dinner down with a premium, aged Bourbon or try the ice-cold beers on tap to slake your thirst. You can choose between Heineken, Balashi, Chill, Stella Artois, Miller Light or Presidente. Come inside, at the bar or sit outside on the terrace; at Sidebar there will always be a place for you.



Picture: "THE TEXAN" GOURMET BURGER



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A-Rod makes vague apology, turns down news conference

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez issued a five-paragraph handwritten apology “for the mistakes that led to my suspension” on Tuesday without detailing specifics about his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Ready to report back to the Yankees following a season-long suspension for violating baseball’s drug agreement and labor contract, Rodriguez apologized to team officials in person during a meeting at the ballpark on Feb. 10. They suggested he hold a news conference before the start of spring training this Friday and offered the use of Yankee Stadium, but Rodriguez declined.

Rodriguez held an apologetic news conference in 2009 at the team’s facility in Tampa, Florida, after he admitted using banned substances while with Texas from 2001-03, before Major League Baseball had a drug agreement with penalties.

But he did not want to face questions from media about his latest involvement with banned drugs — although he could be required to testify if his cousin, Yuri Sucart, and former University of Miami pitching coach Lazaro Collazo, go to trial on charges they committed crimes for their involvement with the Biogenesis of America drug clinic. Rodriguez admitted in court documents he used performance-enhancing drugs.

Commissioner Bud Selig suspended Rodriguez for 211 games in August 2013,

Continued on Next Page

LIGHTNING BOLT

Kings edge Tampa for fifth straight win

Tampa Bay Lightning left wing Ondrej Palat, top, of the Czech Republic, jumps over Los Angeles Kings right wing Dustin Brown during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Feb. 16, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press Page



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A-Rod

Continued from Page 17

citing conduct from 2010-12 uncovered during MLB's investigation of Biogenesis, which was based in Coral Gables, Florida, not far from Rodriguez's home.

Rodriguez directed the players' association to file a grievance and filed a lawsuit against the Yankees' team doctor, accusing him of mishandling his medical care. After a hearing, arbitrator Fredric Horowitz reduced the penalty to the 2014 season, finding clear and convincing evidence "Rodriguez used three banned substances and twice tried to obstruct the baseball's drug investigation.

While proclaiming his innocence, Rodriguez sued MLB and the union in an effort to overturn the penalty, then dropped the litigation and accepted the suspension. He is due to report to the Yankees on Feb. 25 and start workouts the following day.

Rodriguez addressed his statement "to the fans" and said "I take full responsibility for the mistakes that led to my suspension for



In this Sept. 14, 2013, file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez heads to the dugout during their 5-1 loss to the Boston Red Sox in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston.

Associated Press

the 2014 season."

"I regret that my actions made the situation worse than it needed to be," he said. "To Major League Baseball, the Yankees, the Steinbrenner family, the players' association and you, the fans, I can only say I'm sorry."

Rodriguez said "I accept the fact that many of you will not believe my apology or anything that I say at this point. I understand why, and that's on me."

"It was gracious of the Yankees to offer me the use of Yankee Stadium for this

apology but I decided the next time I am in Yankee Stadium, I should be in pinstripes doing my job," he said.

Rodriguez made clear he doesn't intend to publicly explain why he got involved with Biogenesis. The clinic's owner, Anthony Bosch, was sentenced to four years in prison on Tuesday after pleading guilty in October to a charge of conspiracy to distribute testosterone.

New York says Rodriguez, who turns 40 in July, has been replaced by Chase

Headley at third base and will have to compete for playing time at designated hitter and an infield back-up. Rodriguez is owed \$61 million over the final three seasons of his contract. Before meeting with the Yankees, Rodriguez also met with incoming baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred.

"The commissioner has said the matter is over," Rodriguez said. "The players' association has said the same. The Yankees have said the next step is to play baseball. I'm ready to put this chapter behind me and play some ball. This game has been my single biggest passion since I was a teenager. When I go to spring training, I will do everything I can to be the best player and teammate possible, earn a spot on the Yankees and help us win." □

Jason Giambi says he's retiring after 20 seasons in majors



In this June 11, 2014, file photo, Cleveland Indians designated hitter Jason Giambi bunts the ball during a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jason Giambi, the American League Most Valuable Player in 2000 with Oakland, says he's retiring after 20 seasons in the majors. The slugger told the New York Daily News on Monday that he's calling it quits, ending his career as one of 20 players in history with at least 400 home runs, 1,400 RBIs, 1,200 runs and

1,300 walks. The 44-year-old played for the Athletics, New York Yankees, Colorado and Cleveland. Following last season, Giambi said he would discuss with his family whether to keep playing. He appeared in just 26 games for the Indians in 2014. Indians President Mark Shapiro tweeted, "An honor to have had G in the Tribe. A generous, wise spirit with so much to offer. True pro." □

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Halep, Wozniacki advance in Dubai championships

SANDRA HARWITT
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Top-seeded Simona Halep eased to a 6-2, 6-0 win over Daniela Hantuchova at the Dubai Tennis Championships on Tuesday.

Except for six double faults, Halep put on a solid performance, saving the one break point she face, which came in her opening service game.

"I was fresh and running very well," said Halep, who has now beaten Hantuchova all four matches they've played. "My shots were very strong and deep. I played good tennis."

Second-seeded Petra Kvitova overcame a one-set deficit to defeat Elina Svitolina 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the first evening match.

"I'm not sure where I was in the first set," said Kvitova, the reigning Wimbledon champion. "I don't think I was on the court. But that happens sometimes."

Third-seeded Caroline Woz-



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark serves the ball to Samantha Stosur of Australia during the third day of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015.

niacki served for the match three times before finally beating Samantha Stosur 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.

The third-seeded Dane led 5-2 in the third set but strug-

gled to close it out.

"They do say third time lucky, right?" Wozniacki said. "I was hoping for that."

Wozniacki has been ill with

a headache, sore throat and hoarseness since arriving in Dubai, and on the first point of the match a recurring left knee problem surfaced.

Associated Press

After losing the first set, the former top-ranked player took a medical time out to have her knee treated.

"I thought I was long gone after that first set," Wozniacki said. "I'm happy to be through and to the next round."

Fourth-seeded Ana Ivanovic, out with a broken toe since a first-round exit at the Australian Open, beat Sabine Lisicki 6-0, 6-3, while fifth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska defeated Caroline Garcia 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

Also advancing was 13th-seeded Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain, who withdrew from Sunday's final in Antwerp against Andrea Petkovic with a neck injury. Suarez Navarro beat Camilla Giorgi 6-3, 6-4.

Three seeded players lost: Petkovic fell to Zarina Diyas 7-5, 6-3; Jelena Jankovic lost to Garbine Muguruza 6-3, 6-4; and Peng Shuai was beaten by Tsvetana Pironkova 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5). □

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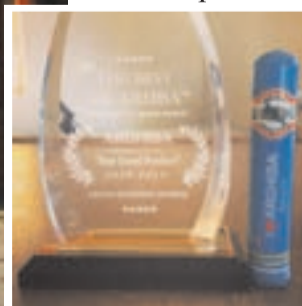


ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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Rangers stun Islanders with 3-goal 3rd period

The Associated Press UNIONDALE, New York (AP)

— Kevin Klein scored with 4:32 left, and the New York Rangers overcame a pair of two-goal deficits and netted three third-period goals to stun the New York Islanders 6-5 on Monday night.

After falling behind 11 seconds in, the Rangers completed their game-long, uphill fight and beat the Islanders for the first time in four tries this season. They trail the Metropolitan Division-leading Islanders by two points and have two games in hand.

Defenseman Ryan McDonagh had the first two-goal game of his career, and Chris Kreider, Derek Stepan and Martin St. Louis also scored for the Rangers, who completed a 4-0 road trip.

Stepan and St. Louis scored 1:37 apart in the third to tie it. Cam Talbot made 38 saves and improved to 5-1-1 while filling in for injured goalie Henrik Lundqvist.

The Islanders appeared headed for their fifth straight win, but they couldn't hold a 3-1 lead in the second period or a 5-3 edge in the third.

Ryan Strome scored twice, and John Tavares, Frans Nielsen and Johnny Boychuk also had goals for the Islanders, who dropped to 18-3 against Metropolitan opponents and 11-1 at home.

KINGS 3, LIGHTNING 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jordan Nolan scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period to help Los Angeles defeat Tampa Bay for its fifth straight victory.

Jeff Carter added a goal in the third, Anze Kopitar scored the tying goal in the second and Jonathan Quick stopped 21 shots for the Kings, who are on their longest winning streak since taking six in a row from Oct. 12-26. The defending Stanley Cup champions are fighting for a playoff berth after slumping in recent

months. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 25 saves for the Lightning, who were playing the second half of a back-to-back.

Nikita Nesterov scored his first NHL goal for Tampa Bay. The Lightning got a late goal from Tyler Johnson with 36 seconds left to cut it to 3-2.

CANADIENS 2, RED WINGS 0 DETROIT (AP) — Tomas Plekanec snapped a scoreless tie with 2:30 remaining and Carey Price made 25 saves in his fifth shutout of the season, propelling Montreal past Detroit.

Plekanec's slap shot got past Jimmy Howard for his 17th goal of the season. Max Pacioretty, who assisted on the first goal, added an empty-netter in the closing seconds with an assist from Plekanec.

Howard, making his second start since missing five weeks with a groin injury, stopped 27 shots as the Red Wings dropped their third straight. They have lost all three games against the Canadiens this season.

FLAMES 4, BRUINS 3, OT

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — TJ Brodie scored with 2 seconds left in overtime, and Calgary rallied from a three-goal deficit to beat Boston. As Brodie cut down the wing, he sent the puck toward the net. It deflected off a Bruins stick, fluttered high in the air and over goalie Tuukka Rask. The buzzer sounded and, after a brief period of uncertainty, video review confirmed the goal. Boston led 3-1 after 40 minutes. The victory marked the NHL-best 10th time the Flames have come back to win when trailing after two periods (10-16-1). Anaheim is second with seven.

Jiri Hudler had two goals and David Jones also scored for Calgary, which has won six of eight. Brad Marchand, Zdeno Chara and Torey Krug scored for the Bruins, who are 0-3-1 in their last four.

AVALANCHE 5, COYOTES 2

Arizona Coyotes center Sam Gagner, front left, is tied up while trying to take a wrap-around shot by Colorado Avalanche center Matt Duchene, front right, as Avalanche goalie Reto Berra, of Switzerland, protects the net in the third period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Feb. 16, 2015, in Denver. Colorado won 5-2.

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Cody McLeod and Matt Duchene scored 9 seconds apart early in the first period, Jarome Iginla had two assists and Colorado beat slumping Arizona.

Gabriel Landeskog, Tyson Barrie and Nick Holden also scored for the Avalanche. Semyon Varlamov faced only five shots through the first two periods before giving way to backup Reto Berra to start the third.

Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Mark Arcobello scored for Arizona, which did not manage a shot on goal in the second period. It was the first time in franchise history Colorado held an opponent without a shot in a period.

Mike McKenna made 29 saves in his first start of the season for the Coyotes, who have lost four in a row. The 9 seconds between goals for Colorado tied a club record, accomplished twice before. The last time was Jan. 23, 2002, against Edmonton.

Holden scored Colorado's first power-play goal in 12 games, ending an 0-for-32 stretch.

HURRICANES 6, SENATORS 3

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Andrej Nestrasil had a goal and two assists in Carolina's victory over Ottawa. Nathan Gerbe, Jeff Skinner, Jay McClement, Michal Jordan and Chris Terry also scored for the Hurricanes.

Erik Condra, Mike Hoffman and Cody Ceci had goals for the Senators. After taking four one-goal leads over the first two periods, the Hurricanes got a two-goal cushion when Jordan scored his first NHL goal at 2:33 of the third period. □



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SUN & HOL 2:55 | 5:00 | 7:05

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– by Carlos Viana

Burning Your Momo

Throughout the festivities of Carnival, the party seems as if it will go on forever. Our community just burned this year's carnival Momo. Traditionally the Momo is black because in pagan religions Momo or that year's "king" absorbs all the sins of the community and dies taking their sins with him. The community expunged from all wrongs is then able to begin anew with a fresh beginning, symbolized by spring. With the burning of Momo, we are reminded that life is ever changing and that all things eventually must end. The most profound change for each of us is our own end, or the reality of human mortality. The United States currently has the greatest number of centenarians (People living to 100 or more) in the world. There are different theories as to why certain cultures have longer life expectancies than others, but one would expect that since the United States spends more on health care than other nations, the life expectancy would reflect that spending. However, the United States ranks only 24th on the list of disability-adjusted life expectancy while Japan ranks first. This means that there are more

centenarians living in Japan based on population and they are living healthier with less medical intervention. Many experts attribute Japan's high life expectancy to their diet, which is low in fats. There must be something to island life because here in the Caribbean, the Island of Barbados has the third-highest occurrence of centenarians in the world. There are obviously other factors involved in living to be 100 years old or more. Studies show that one significant influence contributing to rapid aging is high insulin levels. Look at the insulin/diabetes problems spreading worldwide and how it is affecting the way we age.

Ironically, even though most people express an interest in living to their maximum potential, many refuse to use the available methods that are sure to slow down aging. One thing is for sure, that the effects of bad lifestyle are cumulative. This means, the more you do something unhealthy, the more it hurts you. So, during this time of "rebirth" how about starting a longevity program? If you want to increase your chances of living a longer, healthier life, one of the first things you should do is quit smoking, including breathing second hand smoke. Acupuncture offers natural treatments for smoking and other addictions. Next, get on a healthy eating plan. Our clinic's holistic health program starts with the elimination, or at least a large reduction, of most grains and sugars from your diet.

Consuming simple or processed sugar and grains, especially wheat products like bread and pasta, will increase your insulin levels. That is the equivalent of slamming your foot on the aging accelerator. Eating right for your metabolic type, which incidentally, is your blood type, will also help to optimize your anti-aging program. Like the Japanese, medical researchers have known for years that eating fish was associated with reduced risk of cardiovascular disease. Eating oily fish like salmon, tuna or bluefish at least twice a week is healthy because fatty acids in the fish block dangerous irregular heart rhythms.

Fish oil is another factor in helping people live longer, and many experts believe that it is likely the predominant reason why the Japanese are the longest lived race on the planet. For those of us, who don't eat enough fresh fish, supplements are a way to insure we get enough of the healthy fats or Omega 3's found in fish. However, when choosing a fish oil, it is important to use a high quality brand that ensures that its oils are free of mercury and other toxins. If you are just beginning on a diet and supplement program, it is a good idea to begin with a quality EFA (Essential Fatty Acid) or Omega Oil product containing all 3 Omega oils, Omega 3, 6 and 9 in the right ratio. Flaxseed Oil is a good choice for vegetarians.

Young people feel like they will live forever, and therefore eat poorly and engage in risky behavior leading to illness and sometimes early mortality. Even kids, teens and young adults can benefit from a healthy lifestyle plan. Learning good habits early leads to a better quality of life later.

After age 35, cardiovascular disease and cancer are the leading causes of death. Studies presented at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research showed that supplements - ranging from ordinary multivitamins to specially formulated, natural products can have a positive impact combating disease. Other foods that have been shown to slow down aging are most fruits and vegetables and a component in red wine, known as resveratrol. These are rich in antioxidants that have anti-aging effects. Sardines have RNA that helps you rebuild your body. The Evercare poll of 100 Contrarians found that their most important secrets to healthy aging were, staying close to friends and family, laughing and having a sense of humor, keeping the mind active, having something to look forward to each day, maintaining independence, exercising, spirituality, eating right, keeping up with current events, and continuing to make new friends. Get the Point! Your nutritional and lifestyle sins are hanging around your waist, showing on your face and

costing you vitality. You can "burn your candle at both ends" or do something to slow down aging. Maybe now is a good time to hook up with a Clinical Nutritionist. We can help you burn your sins and start anew with personal long, healthy, life plan.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com "Prescriptions from Paradise" - International Book Award Winner, Alternative Health - ta optenible na Aruba na Viana Healing Center, Tur libreria, Gift shops y centro nan di salud di calidad. tambe ta disponibel den forma do print y pa Kindle download pa nos amigo nan pa fo di Aruba na www.amazon.com Pa anuncio nan acerca di mas evento nan y firmamento di buki check , check corant nan local, radio y television tambe como riba www.vianaheal.com y join e discusion riba nos Facebook pagina: www.facebook.com/prescriptionsformparadise .□

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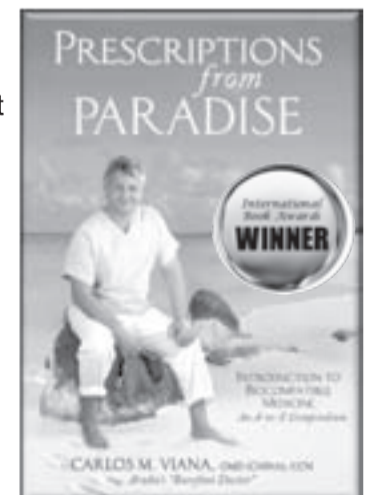
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**Hackers steal up to \$1 billion from banks, security co. says****MAE ANDERSON****AP Technology Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — A hacking ring has stolen up to \$1 billion from banks around the world in what would be one of the biggest banking breaches known, a cybersecurity firm says in a report scheduled to be delivered Monday.

The hackers have been active since at least the end of 2013 and infiltrated more than 100 banks in 30 countries, according to Russian security company Kaspersky Lab.

After gaining access to banks' computers through phishing schemes and other methods, they lurk for months to learn the banks' systems, taking screen shots and even video of employees using their computers, the company says.

Once the hackers become familiar with the banks' operations, they use that knowledge to steal money without raising suspicions, programming ATMs to dispense money at specific times or setting up fake accounts and transferring money into them, according to Kaspersky. The report is set to be presented Monday at a security conference in Cancun, Mexico. It was first reported by The New York Times.

The hackers seem to limit their theft to about \$10 million before moving on to another bank, part of the reason why the fraud was not detected earlier, Kaspersky principal security researcher Vicente Diaz said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The attacks are unusual because they target the banks themselves rather than customers and their account information, Diaz said.

The goal seems to be financial gain rather than espionage, he said.

"In this case they are not interested in information. They're only interested in the money," he said. "They're flexible and quite aggressive and use any tool they find useful for doing whatever they want to do."

Most of the targets have been in Russia, the U.S., Germany, China and Ukraine, although the attackers may be expanding throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe, Kaspersky says. In one case, a bank lost \$7.3 million through ATM fraud. In another case, a financial institution lost \$10 million by the attackers exploiting its online banking platform.



In this Jan. 20, 2015, Kwon Seok-chul, CEO at computer security firm Cuvepia Inc., poses after presenting "Kwon-ga," a real-time monitoring solution that detects hackers during an interview at his office in Seongnam, South Korea.

Associated Press

Kaspersky did not identify the banks and is still working with law-enforcement agencies to investigate the attacks, which the company says are ongoing.

The Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a nonprofit that alerts banks about hacking activity, said in a statement that its members received a briefing about the report in January.

"We cannot comment on individual actions our

members have taken, but on balance we believe our members are taking appropriate actions to prevent and detect these kinds of attacks and minimize any effects on their customers," the organization said in a statement. "The report that Russian banks were the primary victims of these attacks may be a significant change in targeting strategy by Russian-speaking cybercriminals."

The White House is putting

an increasing focus on cybersecurity in the wake of numerous data breaches of companies ranging from mass retailers like Target and Home Depot to Sony Pictures Entertainment and health insurer Anthem.

The administration wants Congress to replace the existing patchwork of state laws with a national standard giving companies 30 days to notify consumers if their personal information has been compromised. □

Report: Apple has hundreds working on electric car project**BERNARD CONDON****AP Business Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — You've heard of the iPhone and iPad. How about the iCar? The Wall Street Journal is reporting that Apple has hired hundreds of people to work on a secret project — code name "Titan" — to develop an electric vehicle. The newspaper cites people familiar with the project who spoke under

condition of anonymity.

Apple spokesman Tom Neumayr declined to comment.

The article says that the vehicle will resemble a minivan and that it would be branded as an Apple product.

Apple's industrial design team is staffed with several people with automaking experience, the article says. That group includes

Marc Newson, a designer who once created a concept car for Ford.

Apple has confirmed that Newson is on its staff.

If Apple does sell an electric car, it will face some competitors.

General Motors announced on Thursday that it will build an electric car, the Chevrolet Bolt, with a 200-mile (320-kilometer) range at a factory near

Detroit. The car will cost \$37,500, not including a \$7,500 federal tax credit, GM said. The car will be built starting in 2017.

Silicon Valley automaker Tesla Motors plans to start selling a 200-mile (320-kilometer)-per-charge car about the same time. The price of Tesla's Model 3, including the tax credit, is likely to be well below \$30,000 after

the tax credit.

Nissan is already selling an electric car, the Leaf, though not many — 158,000 around the world.

The Journal notes that Apple is always experimenting with new products, many eventually abandoned. But it says the senior people involved in the electric car project suggest that it is serious venture. □

The Caligulan Thrill



ROSS DOUTHAT
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In a society where almost every cultural phenomenon ends up interpreted through an ideological lens, the success of the scandal of "Fifty Shades of Grey" - the books, the movie, the branded cuffs and whips - has left culture warriors a little bit confused. Is this another transgressive breakthrough - the latest blow to whatever remains of traditional morality, the mainstreaming of a lifestyle long locked away from view? Or is the now-famous story, with its alpha male gazillionaire and his punished female prize, actually a reactionary fairy tale, encouraging submission to the latest version of the patriarchy?

The answer, of course, is a little of both, which is also the secret to the books' success: In their not-exactly-literary pages, the central tension of the sexual revolution is finessed, tamed and happily resolved.

Viewed from one angle, the sexual revolution looks obviously egalitarian. It's about extending to everyone the liberties - the freedom to be promiscuous, to pursue sexual fulfillment without guilt - that were once available only to privileged cisgendered heterosexual males. It's about ushering in a society where everyone can freely love and take pleasure in anyone and anything they want.

But viewed from another angle, that same revolution looks more like a permission slip for the strong and privileged to prey upon the weak and easily exploited. This is the sexual revolution of Hugh Hefner and Larry Flynt and Joe Francis and roughly 98 percent of the online pornography consumed by young men. It's the revolution that's been better for fraternity brothers than their female guests, better for the rich than the poor, better for the beautiful than the plain, better for liberated adults than fatherless children ... and so on down a long, depressing list.

As the French writer Pascal-Emmanuel Gobry recently suggested, this side of sexual revolution looks more like "sexual reaction," a step way back toward a libertinism more like that of pre-Christian Rome - anti-egalitarian and hierarchical, privileging men over women, adults over children, the upper class over the lower orders.

At times, the two sides of the revolution have come into conflict with each other. Think of Gloria Steinem going undercover as a Playboy bunny; or 1980s-era feminists campaigning against pornography; or today's social justice activists making war on campus frats.

But the essential dream of our age isn't conflict; it's a synthesis, in which the aristocratic thrills of libertinism are somehow preserved but their most exploitative elements are rendered egalitarian and safe.

The hope, in other words, is that we can eventually have the fun of Rome without all the nasty bits: Contraception and abortion will pre-empt the inconvenient infant, age-of-consent laws will make sure that young people's initiation doesn't start too early, and with enough carefully drawn up regulations for initiating intercourse, we can all experience the courts of Tiberius and Heliogabalus without anybody getting hurt.

So our sexual egalitarians don't want to shut down the party or end the bacchanal. They just want hookup culture to be governed by affirmative consent, for prostitutes to become empowered sex workers, for misogynistic porn to be balanced out by feminist alternatives, for dangerous patriarchal polygamy to give way to safe egalitarian polyamory, and for De Sade's Justine to find happiness as a submissive protected by her safe words.

This is the landscape in which "Fifty Shades of Grey" has found its audience, with a story almost perfectly suited to this dream: A fantasy of being chased, seduced and whipped by an embodiment of the .001 percent, a man who's dangerous but not too dangerous, thrillingly Caligulan but ultimately vulnerable, and who proves himself to be a caring spouse and father in the end.

A real-life Christian Grey, the man set free from all restraint, would probably be a pure satire like the sex-partying Dominique Strauss-Kahn or the billionaire Jeffrey Epstein, with his private-jet harems and the conviction for soliciting a 14-year-old. But in the fantasy, the synthesis, he's a guy who will first dominate you but ultimately love you - providing that, like Anastasia Steele, you're careful to sign a rigorously detailed contract detailing just how much domination you'll accept.

And the sophisticated complaints against the books are equally illuminating. The problem isn't that there's anything wrong with pornography or sadism - don't be silly! No, it's just that the sadism isn't quite safe enough (because the heroine doesn't have a real BDSM adept's skill at setting ground rules), that Grey's kinks are judged a little too harshly (they're rooted in childhood trauma, which is unfair to the dungeon set), and the romance is too old-fashioned and "straight" and not quite empowering enough.

These are not real critiques; they're ideological line-edits. And their thinness pays tribute to what E.L. James has achieved: A fantasy that even many of its critics want to believe in, and the utopia that our society deserves. □



Scott Walker Needs an Eraser



GAIL COLLINS
© 2015 New York Times

Lately, the big star in the race for the Republican presidential nomination has been Scott Walker, the governor of Wisconsin. He gave a rip-roaring speech at a conservative confab in Iowa last month, and it's been his moment ever since.

Unless the moment ended this week when Walker went to London on an alleged trade mission and refused to say whether he believes in evolution. Or pretty much anything.

"For me, commenting on foreign policy or, in this case, economic policy in a country where you're a visitor is not the politest of things," he told a BBC journalist. Who knows how that will fly with the Republican base? Maybe they're dying for a president who'll go on an international trip and confine his remarks to the virtues of Wisconsin cheese.

But about that Iowa speech: It was really a rouser. Basically, Walker talked about the "comprehensive conservative common-sense conservative agenda" he's imposed on Wisconsin. His common-sense examples included making it easier for people to carry lethal weapons around the state and defunding the main organization that helps low-income Wisconsin women with family planning.

Mainly, though, The Speech was about waging war on public

employee unions, particularly the ones for teachers. "In 2010, there was a young woman named Megan Sampson who was honored as the outstanding teacher of the year in my state. And not long after she got that distinction, she was laid off by her school district," said Walker, lacing into teacher contracts that require layoffs be done by seniority.

All of that came as a distinct surprise to Claudia Felske, a member of the faculty at East Troy High School who actually was named a Wisconsin Teacher of the Year in 2010. In a phone interview, Felske said she still remembers when she got the news at a "surprise pep assembly at my school." As well as the fact that those layoffs happened because Walker cut state aid to education.

Actually, Wisconsin names four teachers of the year, none of whom has ever been Megan Sampson, poor woman, who was happily working at a new school in 2011, when Walker made her the star victim in an anti-union opinion piece in *The Wall Street Journal*. At the time, she expressed a strong desire not to be used as a "poster child for this political agenda" and you would think after that, that the governor would leave her alone. Or at least stop saying she was teacher of the year.

When it comes to education, Walker seems prone toward this sort of intellectual hiccup. Just recently, he released a proposed budget that would have changed the University of Wisconsin's mission statement by eliminating the bits about "the search for truth," educating people and serving society, in favor of the educational goal of meeting "the state's workforce needs." When all hell broke loose, Walker blamed that one on a drafting error.

"Is this a pattern?" teacher-of-the-year Felske wondered.

That budget also contains another interesting education idea that Walker has yet to blame on inept typists. He wants to change the way teachers are licensed. Basically, the plan would be to let people with "real-life experience" just take a test to demonstrate that they knew their subject matter. It appears to require no training whatsoever in the actual art of teaching.

"Teaching is more than just knowing stuff," protested Tony Evers, the state superintendent of public instruction. "It is an extraordinarily complex skill." You may not be surprised to hear that in Wisconsin, the superintendent of education is not appointed by the governor. Evers was elected on his own, and his office is extremely unhappy about Walker's new plan.

"We don't know the origins of this idea. It wasn't discussed," said John Johnson, a spokesman for the superintendent. "We're requiring more rigor of our students, but this certainly seems like a decrease in the rigor we require of our teachers."

The idea could very well become law, whether the educators like it or not, since the Wisconsin Legislature often makes policy changes as part of the budget. We will have to let Wisconsinites worry about that.

But it gives us a fresh look at the wave of attacks on teacher unions around the country. We definitely do not want to protect incompetent or lazy teachers. On the other hand, if you believe that teaching is a skill that it takes years of practice to master, you also do not want to encourage politicians to save money by canning the most expensive and most experienced teachers.

Not a problem for Scott Walker. His view of teaching is apparently that anybody can do it. Just the way anybody can be president. As long as they don't make you talk about evolution. □



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Gildan Activewear CFO resigns to take same post at Kraft

NEW YORK (AP) — Gildan Activewear Inc.'s chief financial officer, James Kehoe, has resigned after about a month with the clothing company in order to take the same position at his former employer, Kraft Foods Group Inc. Kehoe, who also served as executive vice president and chief administrative officer at Gildan, had joined the company in January. He had an approximately 25-year career at Kraft in finance and operations and is rejoining the food company after it announced last week that Teri List-Stoll would be stepping down from the CFO post at month's end. "While the timing of this change is not ideal, the opportunity with Kraft is something I could not pass up given my extensive history with the company and its people," Kehoe said in a statement. Kraft's products include Velveeta and Miracle Whip. Laurence G. Sellyn, who had served as Gildan's CFO, chief administrative officer and executive vice president before Kehoe's appointment, will resume the positions while the company looks for a replacement. At Kraft, Kehoe will report to Chairman and CEO John T. Cahill. He will also serve as executive vice president and be responsible for all of the company's finance operations. His most recent role at Kraft was senior vice president of corporate finance. Kraft Foods is based in Northfield, Illinois. Gildan Activewear is based in Canada. Kraft Foods shares edged up a penny to \$64.42 in midday trading Tuesday. U.S. shares of Gildan Activewear fell 53 cents to \$58.82. □

Stocks edge up, bringing market back to record

KEN SWEET

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks closed slightly higher Tuesday as investors continued to monitor talks between Greece and its creditors in hopes that a deal will be reached to keep the country from falling out of the eurozone. Investments typically considered less risky, such as bonds, gold and utilities stocks, declined. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 28.23 points, or 0.2 percent, to 18,047.58. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 3.35 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,100.34 and the Nasdaq composite rose 5.43 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,899.27. With Tuesday's gains, the S&P 500 is at another record high. U.S. markets were closed Monday for Presidents Day. Stock indexes had been lower most of the day, but recovered their losses on reports that progress was being made between Greece and its creditors. Greece is looking to request an extension to its loan agreement, government officials said Tuesday. It's an effort to reach a last-minute deal with the country's European lenders and avoid the danger of a

euro exit. After five years of punishing austerity, Greece wants to scrap its existing program in favor of a new one with easier terms. If no agreement is reached by the end of the month, investors expect that Greece may have little option but to default and stop using the euro currency. Most analysts expect a deal will be reached in time.



A trader works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. U.S. stocks closed slightly higher Tuesday as investors continued to monitor talks between Greece and its creditors.
 (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

"Greece's new government wants more independence, but it doesn't want that independence at all costs," said Anastasia Amoroso, a global market strategist at JPMorgan Funds. "The extension is good news because it buys

Greece and the eurozone time to reach a long-term resolution." While the major stock indexes moved little Tuesday, investors made noticeable moves out of the tradition safe havens: bonds, gold and dividend-paying stocks such as utilities. The yield on the benchmark U.S. 10-year note jumped to 2.14 percent from 2.05 per-

cent on Friday. Bond yields have been climbing sharply the last two weeks as investors become more confident that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates this year. Also investors have been using U.S. Treasuries as a

safe play against Greece and euro-denominated government bonds. If a solution is found for Greece, it would make European stocks more attractive and give investors less of a reason to be holding ultra-safe U.S. government debt. On Wednesday, the Fed will release the minutes from its January policy meeting. Investors expect the language to signal that the nation's central bank is on track for a modest interest rate increase as early as June. In metals, gold fell \$18.50, or 1.5 percent, to \$1,208.60 an ounce. Silver fell 92 cents, or 5 percent, to \$16.40 an ounce and copper fell 2 cents, or 1 percent, to \$2.58 a pound. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 75 cents to close at \$53.53 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell \$1.13 to close at \$62.53 a barrel in London. Among individual companies, Goodyear Tire & Rubber's stock rose after the company reported a jump in quarterly profit, thanks to a \$2 billion tax credit that offset the effect of a stronger dollar on sales. Goodyear rose 71 cents, or 3 percent, to \$26.62. □

Goodyear outpaces 4Q profit forecasts

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. reported a sharp jump in its fourth-quarter net income, thanks to a \$2 billion tax credit that offset unfavorable currency conditions and weak sales in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Shares of Goodyear rose 3 percent in midday trading Tuesday. The tire company report-

ed net income of \$2.13 billion, or \$7.68 per share, in the three months ending Dec. 31. Earnings, adjusted for non-recurring gains, were 59 cents per share. The average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 58 cents per share. Revenue fell 9.1 percent to \$4.36 billion in the pe-

riod, which missed Street forecasts. Analysts expected \$4.39 billion, according to Zacks. The company said sales were hurt by \$256 million due to a stronger U.S. dollar and \$181 million due to lower sales in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Goodyear shares rose 78 cents, or 3 percent, to \$26.69 in midday trading

Tuesday. Its shares have fallen almost 7 percent since the beginning of the year. □

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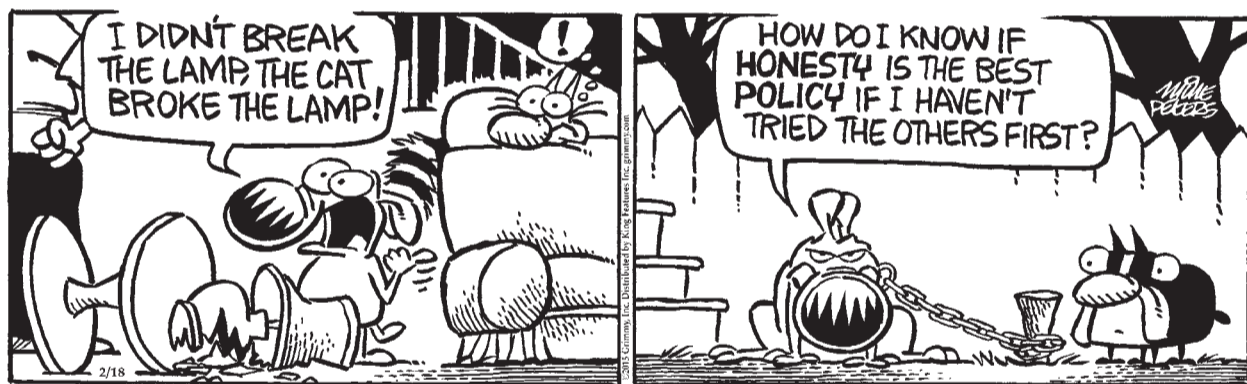
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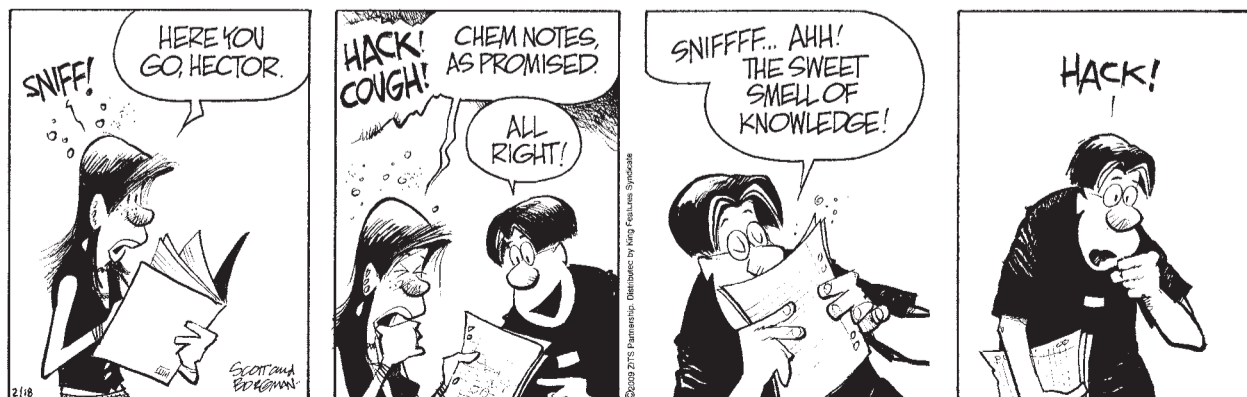
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5	2				3	6	
9			6		5			7
			1					2
			7					4
		9				8		
			9					6
			2					3
7			4		6			5
	6	3				7	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	2	9	8	4	3	6	5	1
3	8	1	6	5	7	2	4	9
4	6	5	2	1	9	7	8	3
8	7	3	5	6	4	9	1	2
1	5	6	7	9	2	8	3	4
9	4	2	1	3	8	5	6	7
2	1	4	9	8	6	3	7	5
5	9	8	3	7	1	4	2	6
6	3	7	4	2	5	1	9	8

ACROSS

- 1 Removes potato skins
- 6 Grand __; bridge player's delight
- 10 Very eager
- 14 "The __ and the Ecstasy"
- 15 Luau dance
- 16 Pathway
- 17 Boscs and Bartletts
- 18 King beaters
- 19 Clenched hand
- 20 MSG or other substance put into our food
- 22 Brass musical instrument
- 24 Relinquish
- 25 Truthfulness
- 26 Breathing disorder
- 29 Microsoft's Bill
- 30 Actress Arthur
- 31 Sandbar
- 33 Weight revealer
- 37 Sleep outdoors
- 39 Removes from power
- 41 Oil of __; skin care lotion
- 42 Catch some Z's
- 44 Homes made with twigs
- 46 Female sheep
- 47 Guinness and Baldwin
- 49 Break in a kid's school day
- 51 Little-known
- 54 Valley
- 55 Peaceful rest
- 56 Mighty
- 60 Utility bill, for most: abbr.
- 61 Gator's cousin
- 63 Stop
- 64 Request for more slop
- 65 Ankara native
- 66 __ aback;
- 67 __ up; arranges
- 68 Observes
- 69 Downhill gliders

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16		
17					18					19		
20					21			22	23			
24							25					
26	27	28				29						
30				31	32				33	34	35	36
37		38		39				40		41		
42			43		44			45		46		
47								49		50		
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60						61	62			63		
64						65				66		
67						68				69		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/18/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

CABS	CIRCA	ASAN
UTAH	ALIAS	DOLE
BORE	SIGNATURES	
APE	BIAS	ELECT
HOUND	RAT	
PSEUDO	CARSON	
LIARS	CLEFS	VOW
ENDS	SLANT	BETA
AGE	COAST	BORED
EDWARD	BROWSE	
HUT	CAIRO	
APRIL	FADE	RHO
BLANKETING	AKIN	
LACE	DAFOE	GENE
EYES	SNEER	ODDS

DOWN

- 1 Father
- 2 Elderly
- 3 Highway
- 4 Add beauty to
- 5 "All __ go!"; cry to proceed
- 6 Use a razor
- 7 Ambassador & writer Clare Boothe __
- 8 Tavern order
- 9 School symbol
- 10 In the open air
- 11 Makes progress
- 12 Beginning
- 13 Actress Estelle
- 21 "Gem State"
- 23 Wallet contents
- 25 Goes no further
- 26 Fundamentals
- 27 Make airtight
- 28 No longer wild
- 29 Hydrogen and helium
- 32 1/16 of a pound
- 34 Toward shelter
- 35 Rules
- 36 Facial features
- 38 Birds with showy feathers
- 40 Sipper's item
- 43 3 __ 4 is 7
- 45 Chooses
- 48 Builds
- 50 Breakfast order
- 51 Nabisco treats
- 52 Misrepresent
- 53 Used up
- 54 Piers
- 56 Tiny skin opening
- 57 Phony
- 58 Secondhand
- 59 Part of the eye
- 62 Regret

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Study sees even bigger longer droughts for much of U.S. West

SETH BORENSTEIN
 AP Science Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP)—

As bad as recent droughts in California, the U.S. Southwest and Midwest have been, scientists say far worse “megadroughts” are coming — and they’re bound to last for decades. “Unprecedented drought conditions” — the worst in more than 1,000 years — are likely to come to the Southwest and Central Plains after 2050 and stick around because of global warming, according to a new study in the journal *Science Advances* on Thursday.

“Nearly every year is going to be dry toward the end of the 21st century compared to what we think of as normal conditions now,”



In this Feb. 4 2014 file photo, a warning buoy sits on the dry, cracked bed of Lake Mendocino near Ukiah, Calif. As bad as the drought in California and the Southwest was last year and in the Midwest a couple years ago, scientists say far worse historic decades-long dry spells are coming. **Associated Press**

years, Ault said.

The study is based on current increasing rate of rising emissions of carbon dioxide and complex simulations run by 17 different computer models, which generally agreed on the outcome, Cook said.

Looking back in records trapped in tree ring and other data, there were megadroughts in the Southwest and Central Plains in the 1100s and 1200s that lasted several decades, but these will be worse, Cook said. Those were natural and not caused by climate change, unlike those forecast for the future, Cook said.

Because of changes in the climate, the Southwest will see less rain. But for both regions the biggest problem will be the heat, which will increase evaporation and dry out the soil. The result is a vicious cycle: The air grows even drier, and hotter, Cook said.

Scientists had already figured that climate change would increase the odds of worse droughts in the future, but this study makes it look worse and adds to a chorus of strong research, said Jonathan Overpeck, co-director of the Institute of the Environment at the University of Arizona.

“These results are not surprising, but are eye-opening nonetheless,” said Overpeck, who wasn’t part of the research, in email. □

Apples modified to resist browning receive federal approval

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Don’t expect to see them too soon, but they could be coming to your local grocery store - two types of apples genetically modified to resist turning brown after they’re bruised or sliced.

The development could boost sales of apples for snacks, salads and other uses.

Arctic Golden and Arctic Granny Smith are being developed by a Canadian company, Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc. of Summerland, British Columbia.

The Agriculture Department gave its OK on Friday - saying the apples aren’t likely to pose a plant pest risk and or have “a significant impact on the human environment.”

The first Arctic apples are

expected to be available in late 2016 in small, test-market quantities.

It takes apple trees several years to produce significant quantities, so it will take time before the genetically-modified apples are widely distributed.

“We can’t wait until they’re available for consumers,” said the company’s president and founder, Neal Carter.

Apples brown quickly after they are cut open and exposed to air. The browning-resistant varieties are considered especially desirable for use as pre-sliced apples, in fruit salad and salad bars, and in the manufacturing of juice.

The company said it is working on developing other browning-resistant apple

varieties as well.

The nonprofit Center for Food Safety questioned whether browning-resistance will mask apples that no longer are fresh. The Environmental Working Group said the government’s decision to allow marketing of the apples shows the need for mandatory, clear-labeling of genetically modified foods.

The Food and Drug Administration is not required to approve genetically engineered crops for consumption, but most companies will go through a voluntary safety review process with the FDA before they put them on the market.

In November, the department also approved commercial planting of a browning-resistant potato. □

said study lead author Benjamin Cook, a NASA atmospheric scientist. “We’re going to have to think about a much drier future in western North America.”

There’s more than an 80 percent chance that much of the central and western United States will have a 35-year-or-longer “megadrought” later this century, said study co-author Toby Ault of Cornell University, adding that “water in the Southwest is going to become more precious than it already is.”

Megadroughts last for decades instead of just a few years. The 1930s Dust Bowl went on for more than 35

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Pharrell Williams has deal for 'Happy' picture book, 3 more

NEW YORK (AP) — Pharrell Williams has a "Happy" deal for a series of children's picture books. The Grammy Award-winning performer has an agreement with Putnam Books for Young Readers for four picture books, starting with one inspired by his hit song "Happy."

Putnam announced Tuesday the book, "Happy," will be published Sept. 22 and will feature photographs of children from around the world "celebrating what it means to be happy." It plans a first printing of 250,000 copies.

Pharrell has won 10 Grammys, including two for "Happy."

"Happy" was featured on the soundtrack of "Despicable Me 2" and was an Oscar nominee last year for best song. □



Pharrell Williams performs at "Stevie Wonder: Songs in the Key of Life - An All-Star Grammy Salute," at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Drake's surprise album sets Spotify records

NEW YORK (AP) — Drake's surprise album has set records on Spotify.

The music streaming service said Tuesday that the rapper's new album, "If You're Reading This It's Too Late," set the record for most streams from an album in its debut week in the U.S. The album, released Friday, was streamed more than 17.3 million times in three days.

Drake's 2013 album, "Nothing Was the Same," previously had the record for most streams in a debut week with 15.8 million.

The new album also set the record for most streams in a single day for an album in the U.S. with 6.8 million streams on Sat-



Rapper Drake performs in concert on the last date of his "Would You Like A Tour? 2013" at the Wells Fargo Center in this Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2013 file photo taken in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

urday. Billboard reported that the album will sell about 500,000 units in its first week. □



This photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox Television shows, from left, Claire Dunphy, Jay Pritchett, and Phil Dunphy, in a scene from the episode, "Connection Lost," of "Modern Family."

Associated Press

'Modern Family' to air episode that takes place only online

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — How to keep the "modern" in "Modern Family" in its sixth season? Create an episode that plays out completely on a computer and in the realm of social media. That's what's in store Feb. 25 on the ABC comedy's "Connection Lost," a half-hour that revolves around Claire Dunphy's (Julie Bowen) frantic effort to locate daughter Haley (Sarah Hyland) after they squabble. Other than a few scenes shot with the MacBook Pro, the episode was captured entirely with iPhone 6s and iPads, series co-creator and executive producer Steve Levitan said. This isn't Apple's first starring role on "Modern Family." On the brink of the iPad's retail debut in 2010, the tablet was portrayed as a sought-after birthday gift.

Levitan said the upcoming episode involved no product-placement compensation to Apple and resulted from an epiphany he had during an online experience involving one of his college-age daughters.

"I had emails open, some websites... then my daughter showed up" on FaceTime, he recounted. "I could not only see her, but I could see me, and there was something going on behind me, my wife or somebody."

"I realized on that screen,

you could tell so much about my life," Levitan said. It occurred to him that format would be fitting for "Modern Family," he told reporters after a sneak peek at the episode.

All the comedy's households represent a contemporary family in some way, he said, including that of gay couple Mitch and Cam, who are adoptive parents, and Jay and Gloria, a cross-cultural, cross-generational pair. With Claire, Phil and their children, the marker is how they communicate.

In the comedy's debut episode in 2009, the parents summoned Haley to dinner by calling out to her, Levitan recalled. Her response: "Why are you yelling, why don't you just text me?"

The in-progress "Connection Lost" looked very much like Levitan's account of his own experience, with a "Modern Family" overlay. Claire, about to board a flight, must rely on her laptop to get in touch with her immediate and extended family — who pop up via their own computers or smartphones — for help in finding Haley.

The setup allowed for new comedy avenues, said Megan Ganz, "Modern Family" co-executive producer and the episode's co-writer with Levitan. He served as director.

When Claire is online with her brother, Mitch (Jesse

Tyler Ferguson), she feigns surprise that he hasn't received her birthday gift as she searches online for a belated one to send. Nice try, he says, since he can check the date on the order when it arrives.

Other funny bits are tucked on to Claire's Facebook page or will be available through links, such as daughter Alex Dunphy's (Ariel Winter) application to Yale University.

Editor Tony Orcena and motion graphics producer John Brown also had key roles in creating the episode that required, as Brown said, each element seen on Claire's Facebook pages to be "handmade." Levitan credits a 17-minute film, "Noah," which also plays out fully on a computer, with giving him the "proof of concept" that such an approach could sustain an audience's interest and allow for a complicated story.

He said the young Canadian filmmakers behind "Noah" were unable to accept his invitation to contribute to the "Modern Family" episode because of other work.

Apple was informed about the episode, "loved the idea" and provided iPhones for the production, Levitan said, adding that it's commonplace for most major computer companies to have ongoing relationships with TV shows. □

MSNBC's Brzezinski to host events for women

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBC Universal News Group is launching a series of live events where “Morning Joe” host Mika Brzezinski offers empowerment tips to women, a venture that illustrates an effort to find revenue-raising activities outside the traditional definition of news.

The tour, loosely based on Brzezinski's book “Knowing Your Value,” will begin in Philadelphia in April. Subsequent stops will be in Washington, D.C., Chicago, Boston and Orlando, the network said on Tuesday.

Brzezinski said she frequently hears from women inspired by her book, where she describes fighting to close a salary gap between her and co-host Joe Scarborough. She'll be part of each conference, which will feature women offering strategies to be more successful at work, personal finance, health and wellness.

Through its partnership with Kara Swisher and Walter Mossberg's Re/



In this Dec. 2, 2014, file photo, Mika Brzezinski arrives at the Ninth Annual Women of Worth Awards in New York.

Associated Press

code, NBC has some experience running live events. NBC Universal also produces programming for elementary and secondary schools.

Like many news organizations, NBC Universal is looking for ways to make money beyond advertising within television news programs. Not only is there increased competition online for ad dollars, ratings troubles

have cut into revenue for shows like “Today” and “Meet the Press,” and now “Nightly News” faces a threat with the suspension of top anchor Brian Williams.

“For the health of the news industry, we need to keep evolving our business model,” said Elisabeth Sami, a senior vice president in charge of business development at NBC Universal.

Brzezinski, who is releasing another book, “Grow Your Value,” this spring, organized one conference on her own, in Hartford, Conn., and was heartened by the response.

Even successful women can use help in fighting for themselves in the workplace, including nuts-and-bolts advice on body language and what to wear while seeking raises, she said.

“If you do a conference in New York City, you see your friends in the audience, and you see the people we have on the show and then you see a few women who look a little lost — and they walk away feeling that what they aspire to is even further away than what they thought,” she said. “And that's not how you want to have a conference. The women in Hartford ... walked out joyful, excited about going to work the next day and feeling that they had really tangible pieces of advice.” Johnson & Johnson is the lead sponsor of the tour, joined by other companies like Prudential,

JetBlue, Tivo, Milly and NBC Universal owner Comcast. There are no plans for NBC News employees to hawk products during the event, Sami said.

News personnel need to make sure they are not creating conflicts of interest when they get involved in these other ventures, said Aly Colon, a professor of journalism ethics at Washington and Lee University.

“Generally speaking, you're at your best when you're doing what you normally do,” Colon said. “Anytime you extend beyond that you have to take care because you're going to affect how people see you as a news organization. The news groups are always better off, in my opinion, when you stick to the news.”

Sami said the goal is to be as transparent as possible and “make sure we get it right.”

The MSNBC.com web site will maintain a “Know Your Value” link with content and the ability to live stream some of Brzezinski's events. □



This image from video released by Funny Or Die shows first lady Michelle Obama, center, with Sesame Street character Big Bird, left, and comedian-actor Billy Eichner at a grocery store in Washington to promote healthy eating.

Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It may stand as the dizziest dozen minutes in first lady Michelle Obama's reign. But she appeared to be having a ball while she put the word out: Kids and parents should

eat healthier by adding fruits and vegetables to their daily menu.

To raise awareness for her “Eat Brighter” campaign, Mrs. Obama joined zany quizmaster Billy Eichner for a special edition of his “Billy on the Street” comedy

Michelle Obama dances with Big Bird on ‘Billy on the Street’

game show, posted on the Funny or Die website.

Instead of his usual frantic sidewalk Q-and-As, the excitable Eichner welcomed Mrs. Obama to a Washington supermarket, where she competed with “Sesame Street” avian Big Bird as well as past “Billy on the Street” guest Elena in a contest he called “Ariana Grande or Eating a Carrot?”

Among the absurd questions Eichner posed to his trio of contestants:

—“Gwyneth Paltrow makes a fantastic broccoli-and-arugula soup. Does that matter, yes or no?”

“No,” replied Elena after setting off her buzzer.

“Yes, it DOES!” Eichner screeched. “She has a website!”

— “Who's more deserving of a Kennedy Center honor — Martin Short or a box of frozen corn?”

“The corn,” responded Mrs. Obama. “NO!” Eichner erupted. “Martin Short! He's a genius. He played Ed Grimley!” If these proceedings lacked the dignity of, say, a White House state dinner, Mrs. Obama wore a nonstop grin as she proved herself an intrepid sport, even when, for a special FLOTUS Bonus Round, Eichner directed her to “slow dance with Big Bird while I sing ‘I Don't Want to Miss a

Thing.” She did and he did. Then she gamely pushed Eichner through the store in a shopping cart while he recited Gwyneth Paltrow's Oscar acceptance speech for “Shakespeare in Love.” And Eichner's final challenge: “Give me a hug and a knowing look that tells me it's all gonna be OK.”

Mrs. Obama's grand prize: A huge photo of pop singer Ariana Grande's ponytail. Not to mention her leading role in a not-so-gentle reminder that fruits and vegetables can be good to eat. □

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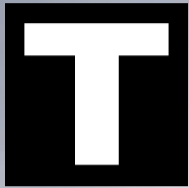
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